

## ABSTRACT

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is studying the feasibility of constructing the Western Parkway as a traffic relief route between U.S. Route 1 and Delaware Route (S.R.) 24 in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. As part of the project feasibility study, DelDOT will complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the EIS must address the impact of proposed project construction on historic architectural resources.

Skelly and Loy conducted a Phase I (identification-level) historic architectural resource survey of the Western Parkway Area of Potential Effects (APE) and presented the results in a June 2006 report (Kuncio *et al.* 2006). In July 2006, Skelly and Loy was directed to begin a Phase II (evaluation-level) historic architectural resource survey on 10 resources: S-11519 - Nassau Orchards Market; S-8393 - Belltown Historic District; S-900 - Oakney Farmhouse; S-898 - Norwood-Jackson Farm; S-11730 - Jimtown Potential Historic District; S-947 - Walls Farm; S-951 - Joseph Farm; S-11548 - Ebenezer M.E. Church Cemetery; S-966 - Hart Farm; and S-8591 - Israel United Methodist Church. An eleventh resource was added during the course of the investigations, S-7911 - Holland Cemetery. Skelly and Loy conducted field investigations and detailed research on the 11 resources from July through October 2006. The investigations included research at the Sussex County Courthouse, the Delaware Public Archives, and other repositories, plus oral interviews. A field view was held in November 2006 with a representative of DelDOT's Environmental Studies Office to discuss specific eligibility issues and questions.

This report presents detailed evaluations of the 11 resources listed above. For each, a physical description, narrative history, and evaluation of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is provided. The NRHP evaluation is based on the NRHP Criteria for Evaluation, historic contexts developed for this report, and previously prepared historic context and historic resource studies. Accompanying the text are black and white photographs of the resources.

This report concludes that three of the 11 resources are eligible for NRHP listing: S-898 - Norwood-Jackson Farm, significant under NRHP Criterion A as a twentieth century agricultural complex; S-966 - Hart Farm, significant under NRHP Criteria A and C as a mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century agricultural complex; and S-8591 - Israel United Methodist Church, an African American church significant under NRHP Criteria Consideration A for its association with settlement patterns in the Belltown area of Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred. S-8393 - Belltown Historic District, was determined eligible for NRHP listing in 1989 under NRHP Criterion A as a significant African American community in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred. This report recommends that the historic district should no longer be eligible for NRHP listing due to a loss of integrity. Belltown has lost historic resources, others have been greatly altered, and new houses, including trailers, have been built within its boundaries. The remaining resources are recommended as not eligible for NRHP listing.